

# **BOYS WHO BECAME FAMOUS**

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Boys who became famous by F. J. Snell

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BECAME FAMOUS**



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# BOYS WHO BECAME FAMOUS

*BY*

F. J. SNELL

AUTHOR OF

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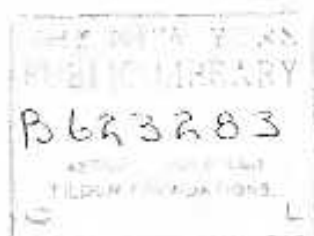
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## *Preface*

**I**N putting together the following sketches of boys destined to become famous, care has been taken to select examples with some body in them—examples, that is to say, affording substantial interest in the way of narrative.

I am acquainted with at least one work bearing a similar title in which a few disconnected anecdotes form the prelude to a disproportionate amount of matter regarding the later years and ultimate attainments of the subjects. This, I venture to think, is to disappoint expectation and usurp the place of maturer biographies.

On the other hand, I have indicated—not, perhaps, that it has been generally needful—the different spheres in which those who here figure as boys finally made their mark. If this modest work should induce its readers to explore at large the fascinating regions of which hardly more than the margins have been touched, it will achieve an extremely useful purpose.

The types represented display considerable variety—morally, good, bad, and indifferent; intellectually, clever, backward, and middling. All had not the same advantages, and some abused the advantages they had. Most frequently there are signs of a brilliant future, but not always—certainly, not always of that particular future. Is it too much to hope that this circumstance will persuade boys to behave with greater forbearance toward their less attractive



## *Boys who Became Famous*

fellows? Whether they do so or not, they may live to discover that some whom they despised, and on whom they bestowed unlovely nicknames, have joined the company of the immortals.

Most of the material has been gathered from standard works that do not need to be specified, but I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to some recent, or comparatively recent, publications, including *The Life of Alfred, Lord Tennyson*, by the present peer; *The Life of George Frederick Watts*, by Mrs Watts; *The Youth of George Washington*, by Dr Weir Mitchell; the writings of the late Mr F. G. Kitton; M. Raoul Postel's *Bertrand du Guesclin et son Époque*; and Mr Albert Bigelow Paine's *Mark Twain*.

F. J. SNELL

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